

**ABSTRACT**

The operating process for an active node (1) of a packet-switched communication network, and in particular of an active IP router, includes the following successive steps:

- 5 a) receipt of an active packet sent by a terminal (2);
- b) execution of a request contained in the active packet, this request being intended to configure packet processing functions;
- c) and then execution of a program contained or identified in the active packet, this program being intended to control packet processing functions.

10 The active packet can also be sent by the router to a recipient terminal (3). The invention also proposes an active node, in particular an IP router, implementing the process. The invention also proposes a data packet which includes a request and a program or an identifier for a program, the request and the program being intended for execution by an active node.

15 **Figure to be published: figure 1**